

Bloomfield Citizen.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

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SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1892.

The Town Committee has ordered benches to be placed upon the Park. This will give the weary a chance to rest and to admire the beauties of one of the handsomest commons in the country. Care should be taken, however, that the grass is not injured by being trampled upon, and its beauty marred by papers being scattered upon it.

Parks are said to be the "lungs of a town." Judged by this standard Bloomfield's breathing capacity should be of the best.

The preservation of public order among us is left to the care of a police force of four men. The force is small, while the territory to be covered is large. This being the case, there would seem to be limited time for interchange of ideas between members of the force while on duty. But such is the rapidity with which the respective rounds are made, and the wicked are so quickly put to flight, that the bluecoats are frequently seen in conjunction at the Centre; more frequently, we think, than strict attention to duty permits.

Six additional fire-alarm boxes are to be purchased at a cost of \$660. The Fire Department wished the fire indicators to be retained, but the Town Committee has not deemed them altogether necessary. The Gamewell Fire Alarm Company put these indicators in on trial with the expectation, no doubt, that at the expiration of the year they would be purchased by the town. The company has also made an offer to rent them to the town at a cost of ten dollars a month. The Fire Department has advocated their purchase or rental; the Town Committee has decided to do neither, but, on the contrary, to invest \$600, the cost of the indicators, in the purchase of the fire-alarm boxes spoken of above.

The recent trial at Newark of the boy Fales for murder excited unusual interest owing to the murderer's youth and his apparent coolness and insensibility to the awful crime he had committed. Many of the comments of the press and pulpit upon the result of the trial were surprising. The clergyman who in a sermon said that he "admired the ingenuity of the lawyers, was astonished at the Judge, and pitied the jurors," was particularly unwise. The Judge in his rulings and his charge showed himself conscientious and able; the jury rendered a verdict which, with the facts and law furnished them, could not justly have been different. The fault, if any, was not with Judge or jury, but with the law on the statute books, for which our legislators are responsible.

The pulpit no longer confines itself to doctrinal exposition and the discussion of topics purely spiritual in character. It has, happily for society, widened its field. Could the elders and deacons of fifty years ago return and take seats in our churches of to-day, they might well wonder how many centuries had passed since they departed from earth. The pulpit, we believe, is now doing a truer and greater work than ever before. The musty ecclesiasticism of other days still clings about some of the clergy, though the number of such is fortunately lessening.

The Loves of Christopher Columbus

Among the earliest things learned at school is that in "1492 Columbus sailed o'er the ocean blue" and discovered America; and every reminiscence of the event and of the great discoverer is being revived this quadri-centennial year. But with all we have heard comparatively little about Mrs. Christopher Columbus, the faithful wife who inspired and encouraged Columbus through all his troubles and disappointments, and helped him to his life's great work. In *Demorest's Family Magazine* for July there is an especially fine article, "The Loves of Christopher Columbus," which gives an interesting account of this phase of the life of the great discoverer, the numerous illustrations including copies of very rare old portraits, among them the most authentic one of Columbus himself. Mrs. Helen Campbell contributes one of her realistic papers, "Child Life in the Slums of New York," which is embellished with numerous pictures. "How to Row without a teacher" is especially *apropos*; and with the plain directions, and about a score of pictures to look at besides, one would not be very apt who could not manage a boat in a very short time. Every lover of his country will be interested in the article on "The American Flag," which, besides the historical information about our "star spangled banner," gives the fullest directions for making one at home, which will reduce considerably the cost of it. In addition, there are excellent stories by well-known writers. The numerous departments are particularly interesting, and there are nearly 200 pictures, including a full page oil picture, "Luscious Fruits," which is a brilliant and artistic piece of coloring. The subscription price of this magazine is only \$2 a year; single copies 20 cents. Published by W. Jennings Demorest, 15 E. 14th St., New York city.

AT THE CHURCHES.

First Presbyterian.

The Rev. H. W. Ballantine, D. D., pastor. Sunday services 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. Sunday-school at 12 M. To-morrow will be observed as "Children's Day." All children not belonging elsewhere are particularly invited, with their parents and friends.

Westminster Presbyterian.

Children's Day to-morrow. Morning service at 10.30. Preaching by the pastor, the Rev. G. A. Paull. Evening service, Twenty-second Anniversary of the Sunday-school.

German Presbyterian.

Sunday services: Preaching by the pastor, the Rev. H. W. Seibert, at 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. Sunday-school at 2 P. M. Prayer meeting, Tuesday at 8 P. M. Young People's Society, Friday, at 8 P. M.

Park Methodist Episcopal.

Services to-morrow at 10.30 A. M. "Children's Day." A special programme by the children of the Sunday-school, emblematic, at 7.30 P. M., preaching by the pastor, the Rev. R. B. Collins. Epworth League Prayer meeting 6.45 P. M. Leader, Rev. T. P. Day. Children's Hour Tuesday 3.30 P. M.

Watessing Methodist Episcopal.

Preaching at 10.30 and 7.45 by the pastor, the Rev. Elbert Clement. Subjects, Morning, "God's Pity for Human Nature," evening, "The Folly of Calamities." Class-meeting at noon. Sunday-school at 2.30.

First Baptist.

Services at 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. Subject in the morning, "Stand Your Ground." Evening, "The First Christians." The annual collection for the North New Jersey Baptist Association will be taken.

Glen Ridge Congregational.

The Rev. F. J. Goodwin, pastor. Services at 10.30 A. M. and 7.45 P. M. Sunday-school at 3 o'clock. Young People's Society at 7.15 P. M.

Christ Episcopal.

The Rev. Edwin A. White, Rector. Celebration of the Holy Communion at 8 A. M. Morning Prayer, Litany and Sermon, 10.30 A. M. Choral Service of the Sunday-school in the church, 3 P. M., to which all are invited. Evening Prayer and Sermon 7.30 P. M. Friday evening prayer 5 P. M.

The Organ at Westminster.

After the disastrous battle of Chancellorsville, Mr. Lincoln is said to have listened with great patience to reasons and excuses. At the conclusion he did not upbraid commander-in-chief or lieutenants, but simply said: "The next time put the whole army in the fight." The staff of Westminster Church seem determined to act upon the general principle enunciated by Mr. Lincoln—to make simultaneous use of all resources. Mr. Beach having furnished them with an organ worthy of their church building, they seem to have decided to use it. But do not all churches use their organs? Yes, for accompanying the choir and furnishing music at weddings. But the Westminster people have announced their intention of having an organ recital from 7.30 to 7.45 every Sunday evening preceding the "regular" services.

This is certainly a new departure and would be disastrous without a fine organ and an expert organist. The organ we all know is equal to the work; and in the person of Mr. Graves (the new organist) the necessary ability has been provided to utilize all the resources of the superb instrument placed at his disposal. In his playing there is nothing to suggest that curious combination dear to the ordinary player on the organ—an indifferent flute solo reinforced by an occasional blast from a trombone. He realizes the magnificent possibilities of the grand organ. As a lover of art he feels the combinations that ought to be, and as an artist his technical ability is sufficient to realize his imaginations. Such organ music combined with the singing, which has always been noticeably good, make the music of Westminster a delight.

But it may be asked, shall people go to church simply to hear fine music? And it may be further asked, shall the invalid eat a dainty morsel simply because it tastes good? The answer is "Yes," in both cases.

The Work of Macadamizing the Roads.

Contractors Wright & Lindsey began the work of macadamizing Ridgewood Avenue on Wednesday. A six-inch road is being constructed. Superintendent McGowan is giving the work close attention, and is having the roadbed firmly packed with a roller before he allows any stone to be put upon it. The Superintendent has put a covering of broken stone on Beach Street and a portion of Broad and Franklin Streets. Mr. McGowan has served notice on the contractors that they are expected to comply with the terms of their contract.

Athletic Goods.

The ladies of Christ Church wish to announce that at the coming lawn fete on the fifteenth and sixteenth of this month, they will have a complete assortment of sporting goods for sale. Their stock will be from the well-known firm of Peck & Snyder, and prices will be as low or lower than elsewhere.

New Fire-Alarm Boxes.

The location of the new fire-alarm boxes will be as follows: Bloomfield Avenue and Liberty Street, Franklin Street and Montgomery Avenue, Spruce Street and Liberty Street, Orchard Street Depot, Belleville Avenue and Oak Street, Clark Street and Hillside Avenue.

Differs with Mr. Barrett.

Alfred S. Badgely, legal counsel for Montclair, is reported as stating to the Montclair Committee that it is not necessary to secure the consent of the Bloomfield Town Committee for right of way through Bloomfield for Montclair's outlet sewer.

Men's tennis shoes at Shoenthal's, 43c. —Advt.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Bloomfield's Peculiarities.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: Our town has very many beauties and advantages not possessed by many towns of its size and age, beautiful green, stately trees, shady walks, classic ruins, good roads (or will have soon), gas, water, generally attentive and courteous storekeepers, a public spirited, faithful Town Committee, etc., etc. It also has a few peculiarities that strike a newcomer very forcibly. It is the present purpose of the writer to point out a few of these peculiarities—not in any spirit of carping criticism, but that we may "see ourselves as others see us," and perchance take some steps to remedy some of them.

What first strikes the stranger is the apparent lack of enterprise. Instead of trying to induce manufacturers to establish works here, when they do by any chance locate among us, we treat them so indifferently that they leave. Something over a year ago the subject of establishing a Board of Trade was talked about, but aroused no enthusiasm, and was allowed to die a natural death. Perhaps it is only sleeping, and may come up again. It is to be hoped it will, as all evidence goes to show that wherever a Board of Trade has been established in a town, increased prosperity has been the result.

In the heart of the town stands an immense brick structure called Library Hall, built, judging by appearances, some time in the beginning of the present century. There is a fine auditorium in it, and there seems to be no reason why it should not have been put in condition for entertainments of various sorts. If a large enough stage had been put in, some of the first-class theatrical or concert companies might have been induced to come and give entertainments there. The Y. M. C. A. have long talked about wanting a building; it seems as though Library Hall might at one time have answered their purpose with a few changes. But, no; it has been allowed to go into ruin. Soon it will be numbered among the attractions of Bloomfield as her ruins. European towns have their ruins, and why not Bloomfield? It will be pointed out to visitors—perhaps with pride—as the monument to one man's enterprise, and the non-enterprise of the rest of the town.

Then, in the matter of lights, we are to be thankful that we are as well off as we are. Electricity is a dangerous thing to handle unless one is thoroughly familiar with it. Towns all around us are enjoying electric lights. Bloomfield must wait until the element of danger is eliminated in some way from electricity before the electric light appears in her streets. How we ever managed to get gas in the town is one of the marvels. In the natural order of things we ought still to be enjoying the tallow-dips of our daddies.

Recently a certain article was inquired for in a Bloomfield store with the following result: "Ain't got none," said the clerk without stirring from where he stood. "But the other day I wanted something which you said you did not have, and as I went out it was the first thing I saw in the window." "Can't help it. Ain't got none."

Not long since the writer wanted something that is in very common use and went into a Bloomfield store to purchase it, but was told they did not have it, and, what was more, it could not be had in town; but here was something just as good, etc.

And yet they wonder that so many people do so much trading in the city.

It is no uncommon thing for a storekeeper to want to know something about a customer before giving him credit; but it has remained for Bloomfield to produce the storekeeper who declines to sell for cash unless he knows whom he is selling to. He lives here though. It would not do to give his name; it might advertise his business, and he would have such a rush of customers that it would drive him crazy trying to find out who they all were. A little girl was sent to this enterprising storekeeper with a note telling what was wanted and the money to pay for it with in her hand. Due allowance was made in sending the money for the higher price charged in Bloomfield for "a superior class of goods," but still it may be that there was not enough. However that may be, the storekeeper read the note, handed it back to the girl, and said, "I don't know no Bartholomews in Bloomfield." (We'll say "Bartholomew" because it does not rhyme with the name and has a few more syllables in it.) If there was not enough, he might have said, "My dear, run home and tell mamma that you want so and so much more money," and then the transaction might have been completed. But, no; he wasn't going to sell to any one he did not know.

Then Bloomfield is slow—awfully slow. If you want a piece of work done, no matter how small, you must usually count on waiting at least two weeks before they can get around to it. And she is slow in getting started at anything. Take a modern instance. During the week of prayer—in January—the idea of starting a united movement on the part of the churches against existing evils in town was talked about, and the name suggested—Bloomfield Evangelical Union. From then until the April union prayer-meeting, nothing was done but thinking, apparently. Then the matter was brought up again, and a committee was appointed to formulate plans, etc., and to report at the May meeting—a month to do what might be done in a night. At the May meeting the plans presented by the Committee were approved heartily, but permanent organization was deferred until after the individual churches were heard from.

It is not intended for one moment to cast any slur on the earnestness and sincerity of the men at the head of this move. I believe they are thoroughly in earnest, and have the good of the town at heart in large measure, and that great good will result from the Union when it is established. But why take from three to six months to accomplish what might be done in less than half the time?

Since the above was written it has given the writer great pleasure to learn that the organization of the Evangelical Union has been completed, with just the right man at the head, and that very soon the active work will be begun. There has long been great need for just such work in our town as is proposed by the Union, and every true Bloomfielder will wish them Godspeed in their efforts. Great things are expected of you, gentlemen, and I for one am sure that great things will be accomplished.

X. Y. Z.

BLOOMFIELD, June 7.

Oxford ties at Shoenthal's.—Advt.